

PREVIEW

from *The Canterbury Tales*: The Prologue

Geoffrey Chaucer

Translated by Nevill Coghill

Summary The author joins a group of pilgrims traveling toward the shrine at Canterbury. He describes in detail the people making the trip with him. The characters represent a cross-section of society. Among them are a knight and his son, who is a squire or knight's helper; a yeoman, who is a servant to the squire; a nun, accompanied by another nun and three priests; a well-dressed monk; a jolly friar, a member of a religious order; a merchant; a clergyman who is an impoverished student; and a number of others. They all agree to tell stories on the trip.



Note-taking Guide

Use this chart to list details about the characters.

Characters	Traits and Appearance
1. Knight	
2. Squire	
3. Yeoman	
4. Nun	
5. Monk	
6. Friar	
7. Merchant	
8. Oxford Cleric	